

AGENDA ITEM NO: 14

WEST YORKSHIRE PASSENGER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY

AT A JOINT MEETING OF THE BUS AND TENDERED SERVICES WORKING GROUPS HELD AT WELLINGTON HOUSE ON THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESENT: Councillor D Congreve (Chair)

Councillors C Greaves, P McBride, D Schofield,
C Townsley and G Wainwright

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED - That Councillor Congreve be elected to chair the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Hyde and G Phelps.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no personal or prejudicial interests declared at the meeting.

4. BUS STRATEGY – NEXT STEPS

Consideration was given to a report of the Passenger Transport Executive on the next steps in the implementation of the Bus Strategy together with recommendations from the Best Value Review of accessible transport.

The Working Groups were reminded that the 2nd Local Transport Plan contained a revised bus strategy and that this document set out a comprehensive strategy for improving bus services over the period of the Plan. Members were also reminded that the Bus Strategy would also form the basis of any future application for a Bus Quality Contract. Its implementation would also take into account the recommendations of the Best Value Review of accessible transport. It was reported that discussions were being concluded with bus operators to seek their future commitments in respect of those measures contained within the bus strategy. Members were also advised of work which would be undertaken on the following:

Local Area Network Review/Quality Partnerships

A programme of local area network reviews was being undertaken. A

Pilot was currently being carried out in Huddersfield and would shortly commence in Wakefield. All other major reviews were planned over the five years of LTP2. Partnership approaches were also being discussed with operators to ascertain if the strategy and the outcomes of the network reviews could be achieved through working together. The intention was to seek to secure the provision of the preferred network and associated measures through partnership working with operators. It was proposed to formalise this arrangement through mechanisms and as a statutory Quality Partnership.

Quality Contracts

In parallel with the work on Quality Partnerships, further work would also be undertaken on the development of a potential Bus Quality Contract application to the Secretary of State. This would provide information which the Authority would need to consider when making a decision on whether to submit an application.

Best Value Review of Accessible Transport

Further work would be carried out on the implementation of the recommendations of the Best Value Review of accessible transport.

A review of the Authority's 6 and 20 would be undertaken in order to ensure that appropriate measures were in place to address wider new accessibility targets.

AccessBus

It was reported that there was potential scope for expanding AccessBus provision in a cost effective manner by reducing costs through BSOG and generating income from Concessions. Additional buses could provide quality home to school transport for Special Educational Needs (SEN) pupils and additional inter peak AccessBus capacity.

The Working Group were informed that it was proposed to hold a seminar on the Bus Strategy, including the potential roles of partnership and quality contract approaches.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the members of the Bus Working Group and Tendered Services Working Group endorse the next steps in implementing the Bus Strategy outlined in the report.
- (b) That the Authority consider the next steps in implementing the Bus Strategy.